



## Upingil Strawberry Patch in Gill

Pg9



## Primitive Rendezvous

Pg8

LAKE PLEASANT

MILLERS FALLS

MONTAGUE CENTER

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TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 10 – NO. 37

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 14, 2012

## Support for Mullins

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE – Outgoing superintendent Nadine Ekstrom, on her last night sitting in a school committee meeting at Turners Falls High School told those gathered she would support keeping Gary Mullins as coach. “Of course we want to keep him, why wouldn’t we? He’s done a wonderful job.”

Once again the television studio at Turners Falls High School was packed Tuesday night, June 12th, as parents, students and members of the athletic department filled the room in support of coach Mullins. Members of the girls softball team, who just won the Division Championship last Saturday joined the group after they returned from winning another game Tuesday night. They are in line to win the state championship. The girls stood quietly listening but their presence was the strongest demonstration of how much Mullins is respected and valued in the school community.

see MULLINS page 6

## Indians Oust Aztecs in State Semifinals



KARL DZIURA PHOTO

Emma Johnson after hitting a homerun.

BY JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS - If you are a sports fan but have never been to a Turners Falls women’s softball game, I suggest you take a drive to Worcester this Saturday, June 16th to see the team in the state Division 3 finals (1:00 p.m. at Worcester State University against Joseph Case High School of Swansea). If you have been to one of these games, take the trip anyway. After watching the past two Indians’ games, I can almost guarantee you will experience the roller coaster ride of emotions that makes high school sports the best deal in town. There is always a story or two.

Case in point: Morgan Ozdarski’s ninth inning hit down the third base line that drove in the winning run of the semifinals against Assabet Valley Regional Technical School. It happened in the ninth inning of a seven-inning game. Ozdarski has been thrust into the starting role as catcher due to an injury to starting senior Stacey French. She has struggled a bit at and behind the plate.

see SEMIFINALS page 7

## Promaggedon: an Extravaganza



Lisa Winter as the Whore of Babylon, Donna Horn as the Arch Angel, Linnea Winter and Wayne Leonard as the man horse pulling the chariot

BY BEVERLY KETCH

WENDELL – My friend from Wendell called me Saturday morning and told me that her sweetie was going to be a leather clad horse-man pulling a chariot of wild women in the Promaggedon Parade. The description called to the shutter-bug in me, so at 6:00 p.m. I set out from Turners to find the Dejabrew with directions on my new android gizmo. I found myself driving through the pristine and placid Wendell State Forest and arriving at a quiet town square. There a lone woman with a new born baby told me the Dejabrew was a quarter mile away.

I soon spotted the hub-bub. Immediately, I saw a tall woman with war paint and a mohawk photographing the policeman on duty, as he posed with her friend in fatigues holding a phony machine gun. Plunging into the crowd, I found myself surrounded by strange mystical angels in white,

the earthy “team” of horse-men with their leather tassels and bare chests, prom goers in velvet and pearls, fairies, elves, and soldiers of World War IV. Directing the crowd was a black raven angel of death, cracking a long whip and bringing everyone to a sort of order to proceed down the bucolic country road that led back to the town square. I ran along up and down the line in a panic to capture the beauty before my eyes with my little camera. Just as I was about to give up on getting the perfect shot with so much prancing and singing and cymbal banging going on, I saw a marcher stopping to pose by a Yankee Rowe evacuation sign. Her costume seemed a mother earth of life and death, a long brown tunic, her face half skull and a crown of lilies on her head.

Further down the route, everyone near stopped to look when the parade clamor caused a group of

see PROMAGGEDON pg 7

## Breenapalooza: Eddie Breen’s Paint-Overs at Nina’s Nook

BY MATT LEGER-SMALL

TURNERS FALLS - Have you ever wanted to paint a mustache on the Mona Lisa? Maybe make her blonde as well and, say, add a few aliens and make the background look like the moon? Possibly add a snappy caption about illegal aliens and call it Moona Lisa? Well, you definitely shouldn’t because that painting is worth so much more money than you make in a year. However, perhaps you’ve managed get hold of that really, genuinely, indisputably awful portrait your cousin made in art class. You know, the one that grandma left hanging all those years out of some misguided sense of pride? The one that, between you and me, should have been surrendered to a moldy basement long ago? Well, with that earnest yet... lacking... piece of art in hand, you’ve actually got yourself a sort of blank canvas. All you have to do is breen it.

Breen it, you ask? Indeed. Eddie Breen, born in Natick and raised in Amherst, is the father of “piggy back art.” You start with an unfinished - or possibly pathetically repulsive - painting you snapped up for little or less. Next, you break out your palette and your imagination and then you

get down to business! Modify the painting as you please with images, phrases, and patterns leaving as much or as little of the original work as suits you and voila! That painting has been breened.

Of course, whatever you do, you won’t be able to authentically reproduce a work like Eddie Breen’s. His art is too personal for that. Breen’s work is an inspired, colorful, and amusing (if sometimes disturbing) romp through the mind of the kid who spent his youth defacing the pictures of famous people in the magazines at the library.

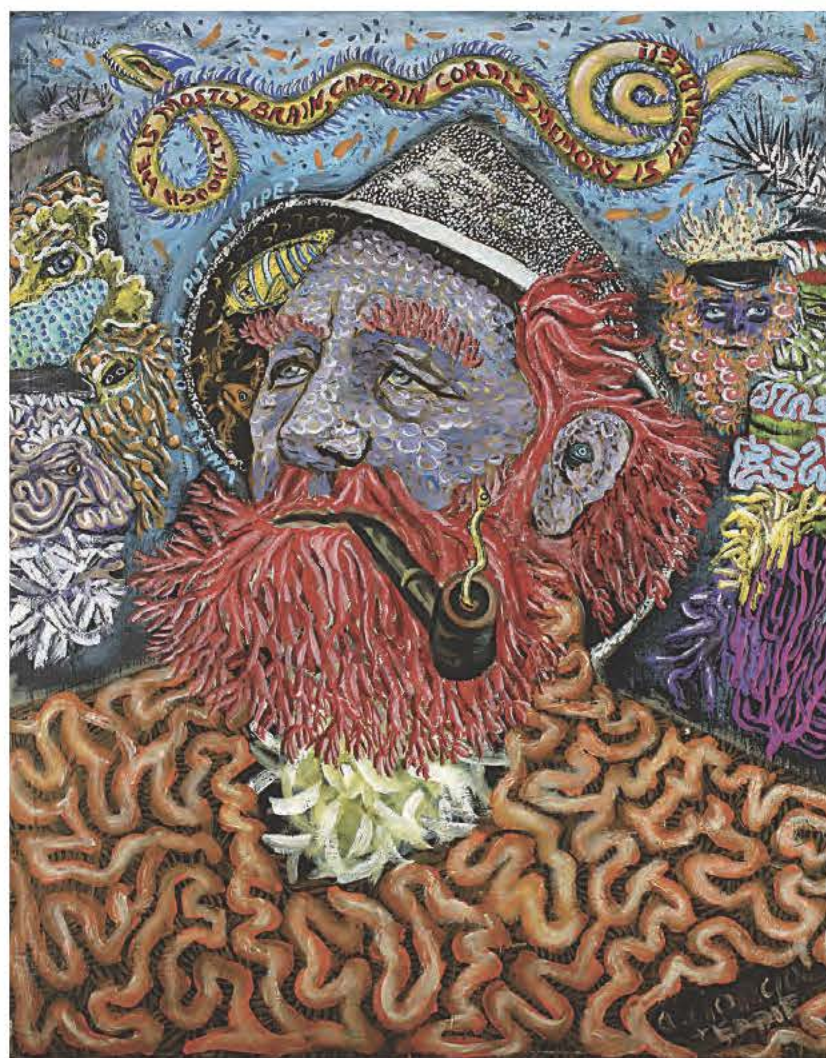
Now, just because some of the art is obviously tongue-in-cheek and created by someone who affirmatively states that “whenever I paint something, I have to be a wise-ass” that doesn’t mean there isn’t some poignant discussions throughout his work. Take the portrait that shows a young woman looking out of the frame toward the viewer and with a hastily sketched and blurry mirror image behind her. The text reads “My twin is unable to speak with you now as her features are indistinct.” Now, when you see this painting, I think you’ll agree that it would make an excellent t-shirt since it’s funny in

its own right.

But part of the Breen experience is reading the origin stories that accompany each creation. In this case, Breen was struck by the silliness of portraiture assignments in which the student spends an inordinate amount of time on the subject in the foreground and then hastily indicates some indistinct background. What was at first a funny and kind of absurd piece is transformed to a very Breen wise-crack - a jab in good fun at the process.

I’m not entirely sure where all these strange, half-finished second rate paintings of sea captains came from (but I’m looking at you, Cape Cod). They have, however, clearly provided Breen with one of his most prolific themes: the captain and the sea. Though it’s a bit of a toss-up, I think the most impressive representative of this breed of Breen is “Captain Dexter.” The portrait shows a captain with a squid in his mouth, surrounded by flying stingrays stabbing white hearts... you’ll just have to go read Breen’s story. The sea captain theme is just rampant, though. The captains

see BREEN page 8



“Forgetful Captain Coral” by Eddie Breen



## PET OF THE WEEK

### Sweet Girl



### Molly Brown

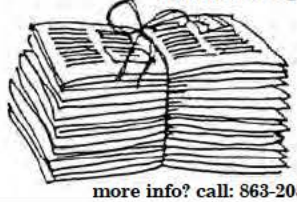
My name is Molly Brown and I'm a 6 year old female short haired cat in need of a home. Allow me to tell you a bit about myself. I have been living on this nice lady's porch for some time now. She has been feeding me every day and I stayed on her porch at night because I felt safe there. I need a home that I can call my own now. I am a very sweet girl and I am very affectionate! As my name indicates, I am a survivor! I am FIV positive. FIV is a cat-only disease that cannot be spread to humans or other non-felines. FIV cats most often live long, healthy, and relatively normal lives with no symptoms at all. I have had a rough start in life, but I so look forward to a long and happy life with a new family that I can call my own!

For more information on adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or info@dpvhs.org.

RECYCLE

### PAPER!

Week of June 18th  
in Montague



### Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

#### Grade 6

Korey Bousquet

#### Grade 7

Timothy Black

#### Grade 8

Alison Ovalle

Colby Dobias

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## MONTAGUE PUBLIC LIBRARIES NEWS

### Summer Reading Program

The Montague Public Libraries' *Dream Big - Read Summer Reading Program* sign-ups start on the last day of school, Tuesday, June 19th. Children and teens are invited to participate. Sign-ups take place at the Carnegie, Millers Falls and Montague Center Libraries.

Children read at home and receive weekly reading incentive prizes at the libraries. Many programs and activities will be held at the libraries throughout the summer.

The kick-off event is the *Pirate Party* on Tuesday, June 26th, at 10:00 a.m. at the Carnegie Library.

On Tuesday, July 24th, at 10:00 a.m. the Carnegie Library will have a *Prince and Princess Party*. Costumes are encouraged, but not required.

Weekly programs will include:  
Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. the Montague Center Library will now host *Evening Crafts*. Children can make simple projects at the library, or take the materials home.

*The Millers Falls Library Club*, meets on Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. and features arts and crafts, stories and snacks for children of all ages.

*Story Time* with Ruth O'Mara is

### WENDELL FREE LIBRARY PRESENTS:

#### The Screaming Skull

The Wendell Free Library will present "The Screaming Skull" on Saturday, June 16th, at 7:30 p.m. Newlyweds Eric and Jenni Whitlock retire to his desolate mansion, where Eric's first wife, Marianne, died from a mysterious freak accident.

Jenni, who has a history of mental

held at the Carnegie Library on Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m.

*Music and Movement* for young children with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson is held at the Montague Center Library through June on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. and will be offered at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. during July and August.

*The Razzle Dazzle Reading Camp* will be visiting the Carnegie Library on Tuesday mornings during July.

For more information and for registration for the summer reading program, visit your local library. The Carnegie Library, 413-863-3214, in Turners Falls is open Mondays through Wednesdays from 1:00-8:00 p.m., Thursdays 1:00-5:00 p.m. and Fridays 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. It is closed on Saturdays for the summer. The Millers Falls Library, 413-659-3801, is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00-5:00 p.m. and 6:00-8:00 p.m. The Montague Center Library, 413-367-2852, is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:00-5:00 p.m. and 6:00-8:00 p.m.

illness, begins to see strange things including a mysterious skull, which may or may not be a product of her imagination. "Screaming Skull" is considered one of the most clever horror films of the 50's.

Admission is free.



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

### BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. My brother-in-law is getting a defibrillator. How is that different from a pacemaker?

An implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (ICD) and a pacemaker are both battery-powered devices installed in the chest to deliver electrical impulses to the heart. In general, a pacemaker is used when the heart beats too slowly; an ICD is used when the heart beats too quickly.

Pacemakers jog the heart with mild reminders that patients usually can't feel. Pacemakers are small; some only as big as a quarter.

The electrical impulses from an ICD can feel like being whacked in the chest. These devices are about the size of a stack of three silver dollars.

If you've ever watched shows like *Grey's Anatomy* or *ER*, you've probably seen cliché scenes in which doctors use electrified paddles to shock a troubled heart. An ICD works inside the chest like these paddles.

## THE HEALTHY GEEZER:

### Defibrillator vs Pacemaker, Rosacea

ICDs monitor for abnormal rhythms and try to correct them. An ICD is considered effective in fighting cardiac arrest over nine out of ten times.

Q. Does drinking alcohol cause rosacea?

Rosacea (roh-ZAY-shee-uh) is a chronic skin disease that causes redness and swelling. It usually affects the face but can also strike the scalp, neck, ears, chest and back. It could get in the eyes and make them bloodshot; this condition is called ocular rosacea.

Research has debunked the old tale that rosacea is caused by heavy drinking. While alcohol aggravates rosacea, it does not cause it. Another myth is that it is 'adult acne' but the condition has little to do with acne pimples and blackheads.

Rosacea has no cure and science hasn't found a cause. However, dermatologists can fight symptoms with medication, laser surgery and other treatments if caught early. It may take two months of treatment before affected skin looks better.

Some believe early treatment may reverse the condition. If ignored, rosacea often worsens and becomes difficult to treat. Rosacea may last for years. For most people it tends to get better and then flare up again.

People with fair skin tend to get rosacea. Women are afflicted more

often than men, but men get more severe forms of the disease. Rosacea often runs in families.

Q. Do older people suffer from diarrhea more often than younger people?

Here's a question for you. Ever notice how often diarrhea is mentioned as a side effect in the package inserts for medicines?

Seniors take more medicine than younger people and thus, often get diarrhea. The average older person takes over four prescription drugs and two over-the-counter drugs daily. High medicine intake increases the odds of one or more medications leading to diarrhea.

Older people have more health problems, and these add to the mix of potential causes of diarrhea. Older bodies process drugs slowly so they tend to stay in the body longer. And many drugs work differently on older people.

Drug-to-drug interactions and overdoses are also an issue due to high medication intake and their retention in the system.

You should see a doctor if diarrhea lasts more than three days, or if you have dehydration symptoms, severe abdominal or rectal pain, a fever of 102°F or higher, or blood in your stools.

Send your questions to  
fred@healthygeezers.com.

## SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – June 18th - 22nd

GILL-MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Kerry Togneri is the meal site manager. Council on Aging director is Roberta Potter. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. For information, meal reservations, or to sign up for programs, call 413-863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine if the center is not open.

### Monday, June 18th

10:00 a.m. Aerobics  
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise  
12:00 p.m. Potluck & Bingo Lunch  
No Knitting Circle

### Tuesday, June 19th

9:00 a.m. Walking Group  
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga

### Wednesday, June 20th

10:00 a.m. Aerobics  
12:45 p.m. Bingo

### Thursday, June 21st

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi  
1:00 p.m. Pitch

### Friday, June 22nd

10:00 a.m. Aerobics  
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise  
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Ervingside, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For Center and program information, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at 413-423-3649. Lunch is daily at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call Mealsite Manager Rebecca Meuse at 413-423-3308 for meal information and reservations. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Call the Center to confirm activities, schedule a ride and find out when the next blood pressure clinic will be held.

### Monday, June 18th

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi  
10:00 a.m. Osteo-Exercise

### Tuesday, June 19th

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
10:15 a.m. Senior Business Meeting  
10:45 a.m. Steve Damon - Name that Tune  
12:30 p.m. Painting

### Wednesday, June 20th

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing/Zumba  
10:30 a.m. Greenfield Savings Bank Program

### Thursday, June 21st

8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
10:00 a.m. Posture Perfect

### Friday, June 22nd

9:00 a.m. Bowling  
11:30 a.m. Lunch - Grinders

### LEVERETT Senior Activities

- Take-It-Easy Chair Yoga – Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. at the town hall. Drop-in \$4.00 (first class free).
- Senior Lunch – Fridays, 12:00 p.m. Call 413-367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

For information, contact the Leverett Council on Aging at 413-548-1022, ext. 5, or at coa@leverett.ma.us.

WENDELL Senior Center is at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Nancy Spittle, 978-544-6760, for hours and upcoming programs. Call the Center for a ride.



At the Bernardston Old Engine Show, Bill Baronas of Hadley, MA, had his family's 1800's steam engine fired up and sawing wood with a circular saw running off a belt to the steam engine. Baronas' family used the steam engine to power various farm machines, primarily a saw rig to cut fire wood into stovenwood lengths in past years. "We used it quite a lot on the farm during the war (WWII) when gasoline was rationed," Baronas said. "I sat around for a good many years before I cleaned it up and got it running again. It burns wood, so that came in handy during the war. I like to see it back in action, like in the old days."

## LEVERETT PUBLIC LIBRARIES NEWS

### Bird Guests and a Musical Petting Zoo

On Thursday, June 14th, from 7:00-8:00 p.m. *The World of Owls* with Julie Anne Collier of Wingmasters. will be held at the Leverett Public Library. The free event is open to children finishing grades K-6. Make-your-own-sundae celebration featuring special bird guests. The event is supported by the Union #28 Community Network for Children and the Leverett Public Library.

On June 21st at 7:00 p.m. *Springfield Symphony Orchestra's Musical Petting Zoo* comes to Leverett! After an introduction to the instruments, kids K-4 will have a chance to bow a violin, blow a horn, or tap out a rhythm on a drum. The event is funded by the Friends of the Leverett Library.

For more information, call the library at 413-548-9220.

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## Local Briefs

**COMPILED BY DON CLEGG**—This is the last weekend to view the **Fish Ladder**, 1st Street in Turners Falls. American shad counts have been greater than in recent memory for many local observers.

**Remembering Avenue A** in Turners Falls during its heyday of hustle and bustle will be presented by Sue SanSoucie as she takes you on a virtual tour of the downtown without even leaving your seats in the Greenfield Savings Bank Community Room, 282 Avenue A, on Saturday, June 16, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. SanSoucie, director of Montague Public Library, is a wealth of historical information with facts, figures and details.

Drop in to meet Franklin County/North Quabbin elder protective service staff and pick up information about elder abuse reporting on Friday, June 15th, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Ave A, Turners Falls. Refreshments will be served.

The director of **Montague Public Library** reports "Someone is allowing their pooch to distribute doggie doo along an outside wall of the Montague Center library, and failing to collect it, to the degree that it is absolutely disgusting. Who is the irresponsible dog owner? Keep your eyes peeled to see if he/she can't be caught in the act!"

The library is not alone in this situation. Someone living in the **Crocker Building** on Avenue A in Turners Falls believes that the site where the Great Falls Farmers Market sets up each week is the open range bathroom for their dogs.

**Our Lady of Czestochowa Church**, 84 K Street in Turners Falls, just up the hill from Food City, will be having a giant indoor tag sale with furniture, toys, housewares and much more on Saturday, June 23 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Coffee and donuts will be available. For information please call Shirley at 413-773-7202.

Everyone is invited to the second annual **Father's Day Fun Fly** at the Turners Falls Airport on Sunday, June 17th, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There will be a big BBQ, music, and lots of model airplanes and helicopters. There will be a model airplane demonstrations on the hour with a massive model plane and maybe an FPV drone demonstration. The event is free. For more information check out [www.franklinrc.com](http://www.franklinrc.com).

There is an **International Folk**

**Dance** at the Erving Library on Sunday, June 17th, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Come and participate at no charge in dances from around the world with your entire family.

Join in for a presentation on habitat restoration and the **Montague Sand Plains** by Tim Simmons, a restoration ecologist from Mass Wildlife. The talk will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 21st, in the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls. Please join for a special pre-lecture walk at the sand plains starting at 5:30 p.m. Carpooling will be available from the GFDC at 5:15 p.m. Please call 413-863-3221 for additional information and the location of the walk.

The six members of the **Montague Cultural Council** reviewed the 33 applications that it received in October 2011 and made grant awards to 16 individuals and organizations to provide cultural activities in Montague's villages for the benefit of Montague residents. Grants ranged from \$50 to \$400.

This year's grant awards almost did not take place because the Council had for a time fallen below the minimum five members required by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The Council continues to have problems with leadership. This release is four months later than last year. The Council is looking for new members, especially those willing to work to support culture in Montague.

Save Each Life and Walgreens invite the public to the **Greenfield Health and Safety Fair** on Saturday, June 16th, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Greenfield High School, 1 Lenox Avenue in Greenfield. There will be free CPR training, free blood pressure consultation and a presentation entitled *Safety Begins at Home* with tips on how to insure safety and security in and around your home. The Greenfield Police Department will take pictures and fingerprints for children's safety, and the Greenfield Fire Department will present fire safety. For more information, call Dan at 413-824-9581 or visit [www.saveeachlife.com](http://www.saveeachlife.com).

Don't forget Dad on **Father's Day**, Sunday June 17th.

Send local briefs to: [reporter-local@montaguema.net](mailto:reporter-local@montaguema.net).

### TURNERS FALLS FIRE CHIEF SEEKS 14-18 YEAR OLDS FOR JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER TRAINING

**BY PATRICIA PRUITT** - Fire Chief Bob Escott is looking for young people, male and female, with an interest in learning to be a junior fire fighter. Trainees must be 14 to 18 years of age and willing to commit to a training program consisting of two 2-hour meetings per month during which techniques of CPR and other medical practices are taught. At age 18 and having completed the training program, the Junior fire fighter can join the Call Force and be called on to assist at fires and accidents, wherever extra firemen are needed. This is a great opportunity to see if fire fighting and other emergency training is right for you. Call the Turners Falls Fire Station at 413-863-9023 for more information or go to the fire station to fill out an application.

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### SAGE Alliance and Occupy Franklin County to "Evacuate the Nuke"

SAGE Alliance and Occupy Franklin County will convene "Evacuate the Nuke," an intersection occupation, on June 16th from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Greenfield Common. They invite any and all participants to come dressed as refugees from a meltdown at the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant. They will carry, push or drag their worldly belongings as they flee a mock nuclear catastrophe in Franklin County en route to Greenfield Community College, the designated evacuation center.

#### Crosswalk Action: How it works

This entirely legal action is a hybrid of a flash mob and a moving picket. Radiation refugees (with signs and appropriate household burdens) gather on each of the four corners at the center lights by the Common. Someone pushes the crossing button. When the walk signal comes on, people cross diagonally or straight across to the opposite corners. Again, the crosswalk light is pushed, and again, when (and only when) it comes on, people cross. The effect is a crowd of people in the intersection regularly and to great visual effect.

#### The action recognizes:

1. The seven Massachusetts towns within the 10 mile evacuation radius (Bernardston, Colrain, Gill, a tiny piece of Greenfield, Leyden,

The Town of Montague Planning and Conservation Department will hold a public hearing to present and discuss an analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives for the Former Strathmore Mill Building #10 Debris Pile. The cleanup includes asbestos abatement, selective demolition, debris removal, masonry repair, and site restoration. The project is funded through the Franklin County Regional Brownfields

## Notice of Public Hearing

Program, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Town of Montague.

The hearing will take place at 5:45 p.m. on Tuesday, June 26th, at the Upstairs Meeting Room of the Montague Town Hall at 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls. A copy of the draft plan is available online at [http://www.montague.net/Pages/MontagueMA\\_Planning/docs](http://www.montague.net/Pages/MontagueMA_Planning/docs) or by email at [planner@montague-ma.gov](mailto:planner@montague-ma.gov).

### Community Forum on Emergency

#### Preparedness Set for June 28th at Middle School

What are Greenfield's plans for responding to floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, microbursts, a toxic spill, or a radiation release from the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Reactor? Citizens for Emergency Preparedness have organized a forum for June 28th at 6:45 p.m. at the middle school so community residents can find out. What should each of us have on hand in our own homes in case of an emergency? What information do we need to know and how do we find it? These and many other questions will be answered at this forum.

Presenters will include Mayor William Martin, Deputy Fire Chief Robert Strahan, who is Greenfield's Director of Emergency Response,

and Robert Berry from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency. In addition, Nicole Zabko, Director of the town's Department of Public Health, Tracy Rogers, Regional Preparedness Program Manager for the Franklin Regional Council of Governments and an armed services veteran medic familiar with radiation emergencies, will be in attendance to answer the public's questions.

In light of Hurricane Irene, the October snowstorm, Springfield's tornadoes, the 2010 microburst, and other recent incidents, we should all have a better understanding of what we need to do and know in times of emergency. Citizens for Emergency Preparedness encourages residents to bring their questions. We all should be better prepared to protect and support our families and friends.

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# The Montague Reporter

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**"The Voice of the Villages"**

## The Shifting Reproductive Rights Debate: Time to Get Off the Fence

Those who wish to limit women’s reproductive rights have succeeded in re-framing the debate, and in many ways the pro-choice movement has allowed them to do so. Supporters of reproductive rights for women have capitulated the argument on the core issue by allowing the pro-life movement to define the terms of the debate, and thus, are now losing public opinion. The discussion should always center around whether women have the right to choose when and if to have a child – and not allow the argument to get whittled down.

There is even a verbal slide in pro-life arguments into a larger opposition to birth control for women. This widespread attitude is symptomatic of an endemic societal issue of fear of women’s freedom. The underlying sexism involved is a human rights issue.

The people who support a woman’s right to choose should not get distracted by peripheral issues; instead they should remain focused on the societal question of who has the right to decide if a woman should bear a child. Period.

Shouldn’t women have the right to choose when and if they’re ready to care for children and plan how large their families are? Do we really believe that it is best for society to force women to have babies that they don’t want to have? The message needs to be clear: it is unacceptable to force women to bear children.

A new Gallup poll released May 23rd, 2012 showed that a smaller percentage of Americans than ever – 41%! – identify as ‘pro choice.’ At the same time, a record number of people say they’re ‘pro-life.’ This is the first time a majority of U.S. adults have identified themselves as pro-life since Gallup began asking this question in 1995. What is going on?

The shift away from the ‘pro choice’ label toward the ‘pro life’ label could reflect the meaninglessness of the over-used labels — both have been so twisted and pulled in different directions that they literally mean opposite things to different people.

In response to the recent poll findings, Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards agreed that labels don’t matter anymore, saying, “What this poll makes clear is that labels like ‘pro-choice’ and ‘pro-life’ simply don’t reflect the complexity of how most people actually think and feel about abortion in this country. A majority of Americans still believe abortion should remain a safe and legal medical procedure for a woman to consider if and when she needs it, and these fundamental views have held steady for more than a decade.”

Still, the pro-choice movement is losing ground in a debate they once dominated. The pendulum has swung from ‘pro-choice’ to ‘pro-life.’

We’ve all heard of the ‘war on women.’ A few examples of

recent legislative attempts to curtail women’s rights across the nation include: Arizona’s proposed law that women must prove to their employer that they are using contraception for ‘medical reasons’ for their health insurance to cover the cost (aka “the tell your boss why you’re on the pill bill”); Mississippi’s criminalization of abortion as murder; Arizona and Kansas’ proposed law protecting physicians from lawsuits for failing to mention to future parents any risks or birth defects; Texas’ proposed bill blocking state funding for Planned Parenthood; Pennsylvania’s proposed bill requiring sonograms for abortions; Virginia’s proposed bill requiring transvaginal ultrasounds for women seeking abortions; Wisconsin’s repeal of the equal pay law; congress’ failure to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act, and, of course, restrictions on access to reproductive prevention measures in 36 states.

Opponents of abortion and contraception have been allowed to increasingly narrow the debate definitions by referring to special circumstances. Cases of incest, rape and other medical needs, while horrific, do not make up the majority of healthy women who get abortions or use contraceptives to avoid pregnancy. Putting most of the focus on debating the extremes only weakens the focus of the argument.

Even Sandra Fluke’s (the Georgetown law student who was famously called a “slut” by Rush Limbaugh and has since been hailed as a liberal defender of women’s rights) testimony to congress in February stressed some women’s need for oral contraceptive based on medical reasons. Fluke explained, “In the worst cases, women who need these medications for other medical conditions suffer very dire consequences.” She highlighted a friend of hers who suffered from ovarian cysts and then mentioned another friend who was raped. Fluke’s entire emphasis was on the medical necessity for reproductive care access to women’s health.

Who decides medical necessity anyway? Is human sexuality not a basic part of our physical needs and functions?


Nothing is said about male reproductive choice (such as condoms or under-funded research on contraceptive pills for men) because de facto women bear the responsibility for control of pregnancy. Insurance coverage of Viagra or vasectomies for men has not come under fire in the courts. The double standard is reserved for women.

Fluke did however, nicely sum up her testimony by stating, “women’s health takes a back seat to a bureaucracy focused on policing her body.”

With only 17 women currently in the senate, it is mostly men who are discussing what’s best for women.


The Blunt Amendment, or its

see **RIGHTS** page 5



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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Come to the Gill Town Meeting

Having a large number of residents at this year’s town meeting is very important to how the town will be run and your money spent. If you have never attended a town meeting in Gill now is the time; general budget, dept budgets, salaries as well as special articles on all aspects of the town will be discussed. This is your opportunity to ask questions and be a part of

what happens in town. It’s your money - you have a say in how it is spent.

Over the past several years the same small group of people make up the budget and the same 50-60 people attend town meeting and decide what will be purchased. These same people vote on a 3 million dollar budget. That is a very small cross section of the

town making the decisions.

Make a difference; attend the Annual Town Meeting in Gill on June 19th at 6:30 p.m. We are fortunate to have a form of government where people can ask questions, make comments and the town has to listen.

—Nancy Griswold  
Assessor Town of Gill

### North Street Residents Pleased about a New Bridge and No Traffic; Dogs Welcome

As North Street, Montague Center, residents, we are pleased to hear that there are plans to rebuild the footbridge in the conservation land. It will be wonderful to have public access to the back portion of the land. Some of us attended a meeting on Monday, June 4th, to both support the rebuilding project and to voice our concerns about traffic on the street. The vehicular traffic reduction measures put in place at that

meeting by the select board were designed to increase safety for all pedestrians and bicyclists, from the youngsters and elderly residents of the street, to the many nature lovers who come to enjoy the conservation land. We feel incredibly lucky to live so close to this treasured space and we strongly support public access to wildlife management lands. We warmly welcome you (and your four legged friends) on North

Street. Please stop and say hello and we’ll keep extra dog biscuits on hand!

Stacey Langknecht  
Ben Letcher  
Judith Lorei  
Emily Monosson  
Laurie Rhoades  
Alison Ryan  
Jane Stephenson  
Karen Steward

### Congratulations to New Graduates; Take Advantage of What this Country Offers

I live in a small agricultural city in Western Illinois. The number one employer in our community is ‘Farmland Foods,’ a pork processing plant. 75% of the employees are minorities while the other 25% are natural citizens. Most of the minorities are refugees, which include Latinos, Burmese and Africans. Those from Burma (aka Myanmar) and Africa are here in the US as a result of war in their homeland. Many natural Americans refuse

to work at this plant because of the nature of processing meat (working in a cold environment, carpal tunnel syndrome, and fear of being cut with sharp knives.)

The children of these minority adults are enrolled in our public schools and study very hard to learn English and secondly to excel in the courses offered to them. The operative words I want to emphasize are ‘study very hard.’ The parents and the children see an opportunity to make a better life for themselves through education.

Flash back to the 1970’s and the Vietnam War. We had four Vietnamese refugee families

arrive in Monmouth sponsored by the Lutheran church in our community. Their children attended our schools and worked hard on their studies. One boy in my physical education class went on to graduate, attend colleges and became a medical doctor.

I challenge American teenagers to take advanced courses in math, science and technology to better themselves and our nation. Not all students are college bound, however, and that is why I applaud The Franklin County Tech School in Montague. Even at the Tech school, there are likely courses that are hard and demand extra study time. Technology is the way of the future for young people and some older folks as well.

To all students, take advantage of the opportunities this wonderful country can give you!

—David Yez  
Monmouth, IL  
(former local resident)

## U.S. Casualties in Afghanistan as of 6/12/12

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## Montague Cultural Council Allocates \$3,925 for Art, Humanities, and Science Projects

The six members of the Montague Cultural Council reviewed the 33 applications that it received in October 2011, and made grant awards to 16 individuals and organizations to provide cultural activities in Montague's villages for the benefit of Montague residents. Grants ranged from \$50 to \$400.

The 16 projects funded by the Council, listed in order received, were diverse in content: Montague Public Libraries "Nature in the Library" a series with Dawn Marvin Ward. The Dance Generators "Dancing Across Generations" at the Farren Care Center. The Country Players "Spring Musical Production of Godspell". Arena Civic Theater — "Radium Girls: a Drama". The Shea Community Theater, Incorporated "Shea Theater Summer Movies in Peskeomskut Park Montague Community Band "Montague Community Band Summer Concerts". Nelson, Michael "Franklin County Spring Parade". The United Arc "Enjoying Nature" for families at Camp Keewanee. Great Falls Creative Movement "Creative Movement at Montague Elementary School". Erin Myers, Jared Libby "The Brick House Summer Workshop Series" for the community at-large. Woolner, Cate "Anarctica: My Journey to

the Bottom of the World", a slide show for local elementary students. Pocumtuck Memorial Association and Memorial Hall Museum (\$400) "Chinese Folk Dance Performance".

Museum of Our Industrial History Expansion of "Free Summer Sundays".

The Marble Collection, Inc (TMC)The Marble Collection "Program for Schools".

Montague Art Movement Montague May Day "Fine Art Exhibit and Sale".

The Montague Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 local councils serving 351 Massachusetts cities and towns. Grant funds are allocated to each local cultural council by the state, based on a population-size formula, and local grant applications are due every October 15.

The Montague Cultural Council is looking for new members. A good background, about the Council's Purpose Statement and Funding Priorities, is posted on line under [www.mass-culture.org](http://www.mass-culture.org).

For more information about any of the approved grants, or to consider applying for a Montague Cultural Council 3-6 year membership or other involvement, contact John Furbish, publicity committee chair, at [johnfurbish@gmail.com](mailto:johnfurbish@gmail.com) or 413.863-8586.

## Notes about the Mutton & Mead Festival

**BY MIK MULLER**

**MONTAGUE-** This year's Mutton & Mead Festival will be held on Saturday and Sunday, June 23rd and 24th from 10:00 a.m. till 6:00 p.m. and is a fundraiser for the Foodbank of Western Mass and the Montague Grange.

Those who bring canned or boxed food get \$1 off the gate fee per two cans/boxes, up to \$3-off total.

Last year we raised 1,700 pounds of food for the Turners Falls Survival Center. We'd like to double that this year, since the festival runs two days this time.

Mutton & Mead also cut a \$1,800 check for the Montague Grange. We hope to be able double that as well.

In addition to the food donation discount, you can also look for the \$1-off postcards available around town including the Greenfield Savings Bank, the Voo and Burrito Rojo.

Some things to note:

- (1) No pets.
- (2) Don't bring alcohol. Beer, mead, and wine are available for purchase inside.
- (3) Bring a hat and sunscreen. You'll be outside for hours, too distracted by the joust-

**RIGHTS** page 4

euphemistic title, the Respect for Rights of Conscience, which was narrowly defeated in the senate, had 37 co-sponsors, including Sen. Scott Brown (R-MA). It stated that employers need not pay for insurance coverage of contraception for women employees on grounds that employers shouldn't have to provide a health care service which they find religiously or morally objectionable. While this bill panders to fears of women controlling their own sex lives, it also opens the door to other repressions.

The Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act was also defeated in congress. It was a proposed ban on abortion based on sex of the fetus. Sex selective abortion isn't a problem in America. This law was another attempt to limit women's choices and is an example of one more sub-category of abortion with an anti-American undertone to boot. House speaker John Boehner said of it: "Most Americans find this practice repulsive."

interview with 18 year old pop singer and cultural icon, Justin Bieber. He was asked about his views on abortion. "I really don't believe in abortion," replied Bieber. "It's like killing a baby."

RS: "Okay, how about abortion in cases of rape?"

JB: "Um. Well, I think that's really sad, but everything happens for a reason."

Reading that, I couldn't help wonder why Bieber was even asked about rape cases and what his answers say about the attitudes of young people in America. The mainstream political center has shifted to the point that Bieber doesn't seem extreme for being anti-abortion. The only way to demonstrate his zealous attitude is to ask the follow-up question about instances of rape. And what about the unstated follow up question after that, "and how do you think women who have babies they did not choose to have, should support these babies?"

Sociologist Margaret Nelson of Middlebury College researches motherhood in America. We live in a country that does not support mothers with easy access to resources such as affordable childcare, or extended maternity leave. "The burdens of caring for families have been shifted completely onto parents,

ing, juggling, acting, singing, demonstrations, wenchies and mud shows to notice you're slowly getting a sunburn on your nose.

(4) Bring a camera or a smart phone to take photos and upload them to our Facebook page to enter in the photo contest for free tickets next year. Don't forget to "check in" when you get there. Let everyone know you're there!

(5) Medieval garb is encouraged but not required. If you have something that at least gives a nod, like a cape or a leather vest if you're a guy, or a frilly shirt or bustier or flowing skirt if you're a gal, that always helps the mood.

(6) Bring cash. The gate does not take credit cards, nor the bar or many of the vendors.

See you then! It's going to be a great day.

which leaves them with less time to be socially engaged in their communities," said Nelson. She believes that our society is uncertain about its children's future and thus, there is pressure on women to sacrifice for family.

There have been many studies correlating open societies with women's rights and education. I fear that we're moving in the wrong direction and question whether this pendulum swing is reflective of larger cultural anxiety surrounding women's freedom. It may dovetail with some societal fears and discomfort around women's sexuality and women leaving the home to join the workforce.

The pro-choice focus is continually weakened by countless statements like, "I'm pro choice but I would never have an abortion myself." Enough people make sure to separate themselves from women who have abortions with a qualifying phrase that suggests a belief that abortions are somehow wrong.

This squeamishness on the part of pro-choicers is a big reason why anti-choicers are gaining ground and controlling the debate. Make up your mind and stand your ground. Either you are defending a woman's right to control what happens to her own body or you are not.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

#### Dog Versus Skunk on Riverside Road; Stolen Items Recovered

<p><b>Friday, 6/1</b></p> <p>10:50 p.m. Suspicious person in dark clothing walking on Route 2 attempting to stop traffic. Officer transported to safe location.</p> <p><b>Saturday, 6/2</b></p> <p>12:30 a.m. Assisted Deerfield police with county wide search for persons involved in a pursuit.</p> <p>3:30 p.m. Reported fireworks being thrown from moving motor vehicle on Hoe Shop Road. Searched area for same.</p> <p>4:50 p.m. Spoke with parties on West Gill Road regarding barking dog complaint.</p> <p>9:50 p.m. Officer noted vandalism to signs in Riverside area. No suspects at this time.</p> <p><b>Monday, 6/4</b></p> <p>7:20 a.m. Animal complaint of cows in the roadway area of Franklin Road. Owner notified.</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Assisted citizen with trespassing issue.</p> <p>12:20 p.m. Assisted resident with injured feline issue.</p> <p><b>Tuesday, 6/5</b></p> <p>7:05 a.m. Erratic opera-</p>	<p>tion of motor vehicle reported westbound on Route 2. Subject already through the Route 2 intersection on officer arrival.</p> <p>11:45 a.m. Background check completed for government position of resident.</p> <p>3:20 p.m. Loose cow on Main Road. Officer assisted in custody of same.</p> <p>4:30 p.m. Completed registration of sex offender at station per state policy.</p> <p>10:30 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle on Barney Hale Road. Subject was moved along.</p> <p><b>Wednesday, 6/6</b></p> <p>9:40 a.m. Assisted resident of Riverview Drive with domestic order.</p> <p>10:25 a.m. Issued restraining order to former resident of Riverview Drive.</p> <p><b>Thursday, 6/7</b></p> <p>10:40 a.m. Cows in roadway reported on West Gill Road. Owner assisted with capturing of animals.</p> <p>12 p.m. Assisted resident of Main Road with</p>	<p>employment record.</p> <p>5 p.m. Dog complaint on Main Road. Same returned to owner.</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Reported shots fired in area of Barton Cove. Investigated same.</p> <p>8:35 p.m. 911 Misdeal from party on Hoe Shop Road. Checked. All OK.</p> <p>8:50 p.m. Assisted Erving police with motor vehicle rollover accident.</p> <p><b>Friday, 6/8</b></p> <p>9:15 a.m. Dog vs. skunk issue in Riverside. Owners advised to check at veterinary office for rabies.</p> <p><b>Saturday, 6/9</b></p> <p>1 p.m. Reported loose cows on Main Road. None located by officer.</p> <p>1:50 p.m. Dog complaint on Main Road. Investigated.</p> <p>2:20 p.m. Assisted disabled motor vehicle on Route 2 with getting a tow through AAA.</p> <p>5:45 p.m. Recovered five stolen items in the French King Bridge area. Returned to victims.</p> <p>7:55 p.m. Investigation of attempted breaking and entering into a studio on Main Road.</p>
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The bill allowed husbands or parents of women to interfere with abortion if they suspect the woman may be terminating because of sexism or racism. And medical professionals who suspect a woman may be aborting because of race or sex would be required to report the woman to law enforcement — or risk being imprisoned for five years.

The data shows that sex selection does occasionally happen in some small subsets of the Asian American community, Miriam Yeung of the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum said, but it's driven by a society that values boys and sees girls as a liability.

The key to nipping American sex selection in the bud before it becomes a problem reflected in the population isn't forcing women to give birth; it's addressing underlying social issues and empowering girls. Any bill that limits women's access to safe, affordable contraception, birth control, and abortion reduces women's social mobility and limits the economic value of girls.

This watered down focus of the debate has filtered down into mainstream popular culture. The February issue of Rolling Stone contains an

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from MULLINS page 1

Ekstrom told those gathered that if they have a coach they like they should give their feedback to the principal of the school. She said they always like to know what parents are thinking. Ekstrom added in a statement to the Montague Reporter, "If he were to apply for the position, I would support his application." Coaches in this district are not given more than a one year contract and so are rehired every year. Ekstrom confirmed she had hired a new PE Director.

It took some insistence by audience members to be allowed to speak. Having tried at the last meeting and having been told only to write a request, then having that request answered in an unsatisfactory

way, the people returned last night and tried again. Joyce Phillips, chair, wanted to make it clear this was not a public forum, but rather a business meeting held in public. She wanted to be able to conduct the business of the school committee in a timely fashion, but those gathered there pressed the issue and a vote by the committee members allowed them to speak.

There were concerns about hiring procedures. With Ekstrom leaving in a few days, and Mark Prince, the newly hired interim superintendent not taking the position until July 1st, people are confused about the decision making process. Ekstrom explained that if changes are simply reorganization of administrators or teachers and staff moving from one position to another, there is no external job posting because there is no vacancy to be filled.

Donna Fitzpatrick will be moving from high school principal to middle school principal. A new hire for the high school has already been taken place. They have hired a new special education (SPED) director who only officially starts in July but has been working with Jean Bean, the current SPED Director, who is retiring.

Some concern was expressed that Ekstrom is doing all the hiring instead of leaving it to the new superintendent but she said this was to make it easier for him when he takes over. The goal is to make the transition as smooth as possible. The superintendent hires all administrators and signs off on staff hired by the principals. "I hired 43 people this year and that wasn't easy."

Becky Forest said she and other parents are watching listings in the

Greenfield Recorder and not seeing GMRSD openings advertised, which makes them think these positions are not being filled. Forest expressed concern her son might not be able to take chemistry next year. Ekstrom explained that they post openings on the district website rather than spend money on newspaper ads. She said that positions are often filled internally but assured Forest that all classes that students signed up for will be offered at the high school next year. In fact, she said they will be adding new classes. For example, they will be offering 8th grade Introduction to Spanish for the first time next year. Ekstrom said the decisions being made on hiring teachers for next year are being made by the administrators who will be in place next year.

The school committee voted unanimously to support the new teacher evaluation process, understanding that some language still needs to be worked out. Nancy Daniel-Green, Coordinator of Educational Data Services, and Karl Dziura, teacher and president of the Gill-Montague Education Association, presented the plan for teacher evaluations for the district as is being required by the state. Daniel-Green explained that as a Race to the Top district they are required to submit their plan by June 30th. She said there are currently no Level 4 schools in the dis-



ELLEN BLANCHETTE PHOTO

Turners Falls High School girls softball team members joined the school committee Tuesday night to listen to a discussion about their coach. They had just returned from their winning latest game as they seek the state championship.

trict. A committee was formed of school committee members and Teachers' Association representatives who worked on language to be included in the next teachers' contract. They adopted or adapted language in the teacher evaluation format provided by the state, tweaking portions to suit district realities. Dziura said this will be a huge adjustment but in a good way. While it will be more paperwork it will also improve the evaluation process, making it more collaborative and objective and leading to improvement in student education.

Members voted to establish a warrant subcommittee of three who will have authorization to sign warrants when the school committee is not in session. Details will be decided at the next meeting.

Ekstrom made a farewell statement at the end of her presentation to the school committee, thanking everyone for giving her a chance to

return to the district and serve as their superintendent. She said she has been able to establish a foundation for the district with the assistance of everyone who is part of the learning community.

She said, "Throughout the year, I have gone to community events, participated in community meet and greets, watched district events, sat in on classrooms, worked in developing new instructional systems, established team settings, met with outstanding parents, and learned a lot about your students' interests. It has been challenging, encouraging and inspirational at all levels imaginable. You will always be in my memories, thoughts and wishes and I will always cherish this time spent at Gill-Montague. Thank you."

The next school committee meeting will be on July 17th at the Turners Falls High School at 7:00 p.m.



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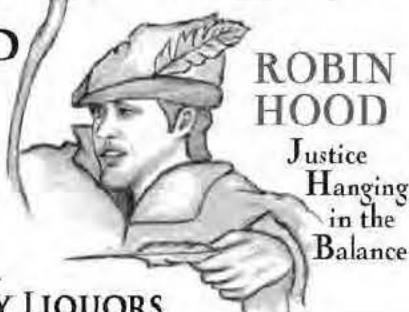
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**NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD**

## First Comes the Fiber Optic Debt Exclusion, Next Comes a Municipal Lighting Plant, Then Comes a Municipal Lighting Board ...

**BY TANYA CUSHMAN** - Now that the fiber optic debt exclusion passed and Leverett is forming a Municipal Lighting Plant to begin to make the fiber optic system operational, a municipal lighting board must be created. Questions about making the board operational include whether members are to be elected or appointed. It is hoped that the new board will include broadband committee members plus two or three new members, with at least one a member or liaison of the finance committee. Peter D'Errico, selectboard member and 'manager' of the broadband committee that initiated bringing high speed internet to Leverett, has spent time seeking guidance on municipal lighting plants and found "about 200 parts of MGL (Massachusetts General Laws) regarding it." So he asked the Mass Broadband Institute and Holyoke Power to help sort it out and create a checklist of what needs to be done.

Leverett's new affordable housing plan, as outlined in the recent town newsletter and a brochure available at town hall, consists of the town buying affordable covenants (permanent deed restrictions) on homes for sale, so they can be sold at lower prices. The house could then "sell for the sale price minus the covenant amount." Only income-qualified buyers could purchase the home.

The low-income housing plan was designed with consultants and deliberately created to not ask for any state funding, thus having fewer requirements than it would if the state had say. However, the select board

was informed that it might be necessary to advertise the "strategic housing plan" with an RFP and not just in the town newsletter. Julie Shively, who has been working diligently on the plan, counters that the house must be in town to be eligible and thus the information in the newsletter that goes for free to every household, should be notice enough. The selectboard will hold a public forum on the new low-income housing plan soon.

The budget for the Leverett Elementary School window and roof repairs, a project using Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) grant money, has returned to the selectboard for its agreement to changes for the third time due to excess charges for the contractor, despite the MSBA grant requirement to hire a consultant to make sure issues like this did not arise. When this project is finalized, Rich Brazeau, selectboard chair, promised he will be "writing a letter to MSBA" about how bad the process has been.

For the first time in three years, one company, Sandri, has offered a fixed price option for prepaying gas and diesel vehicle fuel, as well as a fixed markup price on the fluctuating market price. It was opined, and hoped, that perhaps the market volatility of the past three years has abated.

Sandri had the lowest offer; the fixed price costs will be \$3.458/gallon plus tax for 4000 gallons of gas and \$3.558 for 5000 gallons of diesel. The selectboard prefers the stability of a fixed price and recommends choosing that

option, subject to road superintendent Will Stratford's approval.

Terry Allen, who recently left the position of town accountant, will continue to help with payroll and will receive back pay to April since she has been doing the work without pay. The temporary position should last until around July 1st, but realistically, "as long as necessary" as the new payroll system gets implemented. Barbara Tiner, the new selectboard clerk, will take over the position of webmaster from Allen, although Allen's experience will certainly be helpful to Tiner.

The transfer station has lost an attendant and Orson Jones, former supervisor, will be returning after a year away, this time as a regular attendant. Matt Boucher has resigned from the highway department, which is "very sad... he was a great employee," said Brazeau. "But he did say he might be back in about twenty years." A hiring committee will meet at the end of the month to review applications for the vacant position. Applications are due at 8:00 a.m. on June 25th.

**SEMIFINALS page 1**

So has the team. For the first four innings the Indians were completely shut down by Aztec starting pitcher Maddy Parameter, a freshman with a quick, accurate fastball. In the fourth Assabet scored four runs on an assortment of walks, hits and errors. At that point Turners fans were preparing themselves for one of those "it was a great run but we met a better team" drives home. But out of the blue the Indians came to life, scoring four runs and knocking Parameter out of the game in the top of the fifth. What happened? To top it off, Turners took the lead in the top of the seventh, only to see Assabet tie the score at 5-5 and send the game into extra innings. This set the stage for unexpected Ozdarski's heroics in the ninth.

This was the second game in a row that Turners

**NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

## Three New Teachers Hired

**BY CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇANNO** - Principal Ann Ross announced at the School Committee meeting on June 11th that she hired three new teachers to replace retiring faculty members in the lower grades. Margot Hambleton will be the new kindergarten teacher, Alissa Alteri Shea will teach first grade and Angela Regan will take over the second grade class. Ross also asked the committee to approve appointing Alteri Shea at a higher level — Step Placement Master's Grade 10, as opposed to Step 7 as she has over 20 years teaching experience. Union 28 Superintendent Joan Wickman also advocated for the increase in starting level pay. Ross noted that the budget allowed for the pay increase and there was a salary commensurate with experience precedent. The committee unanimously approved the Grade 10 salary.

The committee also wrangled with another hiring issue: whether to continue the services on a part-time basis of retiring facilities manager John Kuczek. Kuczek apparently will continue to work part-time for the town, and the selectboard offered to share Kuczek with the school for four hours per week at a salary of \$4000 per year. Both Ross and Wickman felt that Tabatha McLellan, the current maintenance supervisor, could gener-

ally handle the duties. Wickman also stated that she "liked to pay only for what she needed," and did not feel that the school needed Kuczek four hours each week. In the end the committee unanimously agreed but also decided they would still like to employ Kuczek on an as-needed basis. He would be paid for any services at the town's per-diem rate. It's not yet clear whether Kuczek will agree to this proposal.

Superintendent Wickman told the committee that Leverett's refusal to pay benefits to Union 28 central office staff above the level the town pays for its employees has resulted in a \$4157.52 FY'12 debt. The Leverett selectboard has stood firm on this ongoing issue. When the superintendent was asked by chair Dawn Sachs what the committee could do to address the problem, Wickman responded that they could write a letter or send a representative to the selectboard. New committee member Aaron Osborne volunteered to represent the committee at a future meeting. The disparity issue is currently part of the special legislation proposal still to be approved by the state legislature. Wickman told the committee that Senator Rosenberg's office reported that for the special legislation to pass the legislature, it likely would have to be recrafted to be more specific to Union 28.

The committee also unanimously approved fixing a new per diem structure for substitute teachers, and food service and custodial temporary employees. The new policy is more coherent in that long-term substitutes will be upgraded to Step 1 employees with a fixed per diem of \$70. Wickham noted that at present Leverett pays slightly above the \$60 average for substitute teachers.

The Green Repair continues. Ross informed the committee that new replacement windows should arrive by August 10th and Greenfield Glass has agreed to do "whatever it takes" to install the windows by the start of school on August 27th. Wickman noted that they also have a "Plan B" should the new windows not arrive in time, involving moving the two classrooms affected in the old building to a temporary location in the new building so the windows could be replaced even after the beginning of school.

Kip Fonsh, representative to the Regional School Committee, announced the ongoing start-time issue has yet to be resolved, and it seems unlikely the new high school start-time will be 9:00 a.m. An earlier or later time for the high school to begin will have repercussions on when LES students will need to get to school. Stay tuned.

**NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD**

## Civil War Remembrance, Outstanding Citizens, Childcare at Town Meetings

**BY JOSH HEINEMAN** - On the second evening after an over three hour annual town meeting, the Wendell Selectboard held their regular Wednesday meeting with a short agenda, and a presentation by Genevieve Frasier who invited all Wendell residents to a North Quabbin Civil War remembrance on July 4th. 150 years ago on that date, President Abraham Lincoln sent a proclamation to every city and town to supply money and men for the war effort. Virtually every town in New England has a memorial with the names of every person who served. Frazier outlined the remembrance events planned.

The 2012 Civil War remembrance will begin July 4th at 9:30 a.m. at the Orange Gun Club with a black powder shoot, a reenactment, and

camp food available for purchase. At 12:30 there will be a cauldron lunch of bear and other wild game. At 2:00 p.m. the Orange town hall will hold readings from diaries and letters of the time along with a living heritage farmer and an artisan market, which will include only items available in the 1860's. Following that will be a performance of the musical "Abraham Lincoln," and then supper. Chuck Berube will impersonate Abraham Lincoln. The event is free except for food and craft purchases.

Residents are invited to bring and read from family letters or documents at the Orange town hall and there is still room in the chorus of "Abraham Lincoln." Contact Genevieve Frasier at 978-544-

see **WENDELL** page 8

**PROMAGGEDON pg 1**

horses in a pasture by the road to gallop together, a regal vision of perfection, forever removed from our human comedy and drama. Back at the town square, a crowd of people just as festive as the marchers had gathered. Many had lightning bolts through their heads, clown noses, or were dressed in full promaggedon style, including a young lady with a 75 watt smile, a lime green gown and a space alien bouffant as well as a bearded Jesus who I happened to photograph with brilliant back lighting from the sun. Peeking into the town hall, I saw a girl band with a wonder-girl and a chic bride of Frankenstein playing a very appealing bee-gees cover.

I had to go, real life was calling me back, but as I drove away I saw a sky dancer suspended above the town square from a tree. She was carefully balancing upside down in the fold of a long red scarf. I drove slowly with wide eyes and an elated feeling.

The Misfit Prom, a yearly Wendell fundraiser raffle, town costume party and art happening, is the brainchild of Donna Horn. This year's theme was "promaggedon" and the beneficiary was the Friends of the Wendell Meeting House, a group dedicated to restoring a beautiful historic building on the Wendell common so it can be used again by the town.



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## Primitive Rendezvous Celebrates their 25th Encampment on Bennett Meadow

BY JOE PARZYCH

**NORTHFIELD** - Over 100 campers celebrated their organization's 25th Anniversary, on Bennett Meadow in Northfield from last Wednesday until Friday to recreate life as it was in the period of 1750 to 1840. People came from as far away as Warrensburg, NY, Connecticut,

Boston, Hadley and the far reaches of New England. A village of tents and an occasional teepee sprang up on the banks of the west side of Connecticut River. The temporary inhabitants dressed in period clothing and shoes. Some even went barefoot. There was a blacksmith, other craftsmen, and shopkeepers selling repro-

ductions of period pieces. Wood smoke lazily rose into the air from stove pipes of camp stoves. Campfires in fireplaces doubled as places to cook. The sound of muskets firing at the edge of the woods lent authenticity to the encampment.

"We try to live as close to the time period as possible," Bonnie Motyka, of Hatfield, said.

"On Monday morning from 10:00 to 12:00, there was an opportunity for school children to learn about primitive life," Phyllis Cameron, of Warrens, NY, said.

The village had the look and feel of authenticity, if you kept your eyes focused on the immediate vicinity of the concentration of tents.

In the parking lot of the outside world, an occasional motor home with a generator humming to feed a rooftop air conditioner offered respite from the summer heat. A



Primitive Re-enactors (L-R) Bonnie Motyka of Hatfield, Phyllis Cameron of Warrensburg, NY, Lisa Giovanello and Alexa Giovanello of Boston

WENDELL from page 7

1872 or FrasierGenevieve@gmail.com to participate or for more information.

Town Coordinator Nancy Aldrich opened the meeting by forwarding a suggestion made by Nan Riebschlaeger for childcare at town meetings. Selectboard Chair Christine Heard proposed putting the idea into the next town newsletter, and then she questioned what pay would be appropriate for the sitter, whether there might be liability issues, and how the sitter would be paid and how parents might pay. Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser said parents might be unwilling to use precious time with childcare for town meeting instead of perhaps, a quiet dinner out. A short walk away, the library has a children's room that is seldom occupied during town meeting hours.

Aldrich said she had received six letters suggesting a citizen of the year, a choice that has been made by the Selectboard, and kept quiet until the honor is announced at Old Home

Day.

Aldrich reported that the town's Hamshaw Lumber account is confused because people from several town departments buy supplies there and not everyone knows the proper procedure. She suggested sending notices out to the departments outlining how charges should be made. The bill is about \$100.

Citizen Dale Kowaki who lives on the Erving side of Old Farley Road, which is not connected for vehicle use to the Wendell side, suggested changing his road's name, possibly to River Road. That change can be made by town meeting vote, but the board members decided to send a letter to the Erving Selectboard to tell them of the possible change.

Pooser said that the IT workers who will make secure town information safer and ensure effective back up, had come to look at the town office situation, but he wondered if they could start work before July 1st, when the town meeting vote authorizing that work becomes legal. Heard said they should wait.

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even taking perfectly...tasteless...portraits of frumpy middle aged women and turning them into sea captains.

"Wrong!" features just such a transformation with disturbing results that will leave you agreeing with Mrs. Breen: that painting does need some balloons to lighten it up. Mrs. Breen, whose presence throughout the statements for each piece gives a comforting breath of sanity, was incorrect, however, when she suggested that Breen add clowns to the painting. I'm still trying to forget a certain clown that hangs nearby.

Irreverence is the order of the day when it comes to piggy back art. What else would you get when you start with a form built on defacing another artist's work? That playful irreverence comes out in some of his religious and political paintings. One of them shows Jesus with a hand up forbidding in front of him and the text "I love you but you're invading my personal space. BACK OFF!" The painting's back story shows us what was going on in the artist's head: "...I was thinking about Nina's Nook, and how Jesus would have to brush by you on the way to Golgotha, how he wouldn't be in a very good

mood and be a little snappy... totally understandable." Another shows a disturbing image of a straight jacketed woman with the twisted faces of the erstwhile contenders for the Republican nomination. Suffice it to say that it is not a flattering portrait of the politicians in question.

Now, it should be pointed out that Breen isn't entirely oblivious to the fact that he is but modifying and embellishing someone else's work of art. He does, after all, often sign his name near the signature of the original artist with a "+ breen." But for those of you who find the whole breening process a bit too irreverent, you're in luck! Eddie has given you the power to save a portrait from being breened. For only \$100 you can save a cute little sailor boy from possibly being turned into a vampire baby or, probably, a sea-captain vampire baby. That's right. It's in your power to stop Breen from unleashing some witty and scathing political observation. I dare you.

Breenapalooza! is at Nina's Nook on Avenue A in Turners through July 15th. Don't miss your chance to see the show, breen yourself out back in Nina's Cranny and take home your very own Breen!

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## Easy Picking at Upingil Strawberry Patch



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

L-R In foreground, William Polatin, eating a strawberry, and Colleen Sculley, his mom; both of Gill. In background, Clifford Hatch weighs a customer's strawberries.

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

GILL - Despite the unsettled weather, the Upingil strawberry patch on Main Road in Gill has had a steady stream of customers coming to pick

delicious strawberries in their two-acre strawberry patch.

"Because it's been cool, the rain hasn't harmed the crop," owner Clifford Hatch said. "Hot rain makes

purchases on," Hatch said. "When you've got a cumulative total of 50 lbs, you get a 5% discount on the whole amount."

strawberries mushy. Showers haven't kept people away; they like to get out in the country and enjoy the quiet of the fields and smell the strawberries. You can also meet a lot of nice people out in the strawberry patch."

The price is \$2 per pound. A woman who had recently visited in Pennsylvania said they were \$2.50 there, so Hatch feels his prices are competitive.

"We have a discount card that you can record your

The soil, on the former Kisloski tobacco and dairy farm, is designated by the USDA as "Agawam alluvial soil," which is lighter than "Hadley alluvial soil," according to Hatch. The subsoil on the farm is sand and gravel down 400 feet to bedrock, so it drains well, which strawberries like. Hatch especially likes that feature, too, since a wet spell hasn't flooded his fields. By looking at the lay of the land, Hatch theorizes that the underlying sand and gravel deposit and the alluvial top soil are a result of the Connecticut River once having run through the farm before changing to its present course, probably during the Lake Hitchcock era.

For nutrients Hatch uses straight mineral fertilizer, and extra compost that's been heated to destroy weeds. "Strawberries do not abide weeds. There are still plenty of weeds that come up from cow manure the former owners put on the soil years ago. We plant a cover crop of Sudan grass or buckwheat to shade out weeds before turning the crop under as 'green manure' to add organic material to the soil."

Strawberries have to be planted anew every two or three years, but aren't ready to be picked until the second year after replanting. Hatch

plants strawberry runners every year in order to have three or four varieties ready to pick each year. The runners are commonly called "daughters" but the correct term is "stolen." The runners need to be clipped off the first year in order to get a good crop. These clippings, or stolen, can be saved for replanting, but Hatch prefers to buy stolen from Norse Farms in Hatfield for ten cents each, all bundled up, ready to plant. Hatch hires local kids to plant them.

There are many varieties of strawberries. Hatch planted three this year; an early variety, Annapolis, and a mid term high yield variety, Honeoye (pronounced honey eye), which is flavorful and juicy but not soft. Last, but not least, is later bearing Jewel, which produces huge berries that are so heavy the plant can't support them and they droop down so that rain splashes dirt on them. Hatch spreads a bed of straw between rows of all varieties to keep berries clean as well as to keep weeds down.

It turns out that raising strawberries is a lot of work, especially for a three-week picking season, and involves more than scattering a handful of seeds to the wind as city people may think.



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# Ferry Meadow Farm - part XLIV

Montague 2017

BY ELOISE MICHAEL -

I see Marissa again soon. She meets me after I wake up at Ferry Meadow Farm. “It has to be Jason,” she says.

I know that she is right. “If anyone has the stomach for dealing with dead bodies, it’s probably Jason,” I say.

“That’s what I was thinking,” Marissa says, “and he’s the one who got us all into this mess.” Then she looks at me to see whether I will defend him.

I don’t. I just nod, then say, “He’s in Europe, though.”

“He’ll have to come back.”

“Can we even contact him?” I ask doubtfully.

“Leah can.” Dave comes into the barn while we are talking and smiles at us. “I think I’ll take one more trip into town,” Marissa says, walking out the door.

“Thank you,” I say after her.

Dave looks at me but says nothing.

“She’s going to help me get rid of the doppelganger,” I explain.

“Really?” Dave asks. “How can she do that?”

“Right now she’s going to bring Jason back,” I say, not sure how much I should tell him.

“Oh,” he says. From his expression I think he doesn’t like Jason.

“He got us into this, kind of,” I say. “But really it’s my fault,” I add. “I’m putting all of you at risk, and you don’t even know me.”

“We know you a little bit,” Dave says. He sits down on a straw bale and starts helping me clean carrots for the farmers’ market. “And we like having you here. At least I do.”

“I’m sorry,” I say. “I really made a mistake.”

“You were helping with an important project,” he says. “And now you can help us with this important project. The farm,” he adds.

“It’s less risky,” I laugh.

“I’m glad you’re staying,” Dave says.

I look over to see his face.

“You’re staying, right? Not going

to Europe with Jason?”

“No, I won’t go with him,” I say, “and I’ll stay, if, you know, if you guys want me here.”

“We do, and we have an extra tent, for someone who sleeps at night.”

“Thanks,” I say. Feeling awkward, I sit down next to him on the straw bale.

He drops the carrot he is holding into a bucket of water and turns toward me, taking my hands. Suddenly I hear the sounds of the night, the crickets and the wind, which must have been there all along. I am aware of the darkness outside and of how cool the nights have become these last days. The light in the barn feels like a spotlight, the open barn door making it feel like we are on stage.

“Let’s go for a walk,” I say. Then

I add, “I’ll finish the carrots later,” not wanting to seem irresponsible.

“As long as you finish the carrots later,” he laughs, “I’ll go with you.”

We hold hands while we walk, and he stays out later than he should, considering he has work to do in the morning. “How much longer,” I wonder out loud, “until I can be with you during the day, and not have to stay up for hours all alone?”

“Then I would have to share you with everyone else,” Dave says. He stops before we get close enough to the tents that we might bother the families sleeping inside.

“Maybe we can still go for walks,” I say hopefully. “Just us.”

It’s the nicest goodnight kiss I have ever had, and I am happily restless until morning.

—Continued Next Issue

## A Tour of Green River Cemetery



BY ALEXANDER LÉGER-SMALL

**GREENFIELD** - Last Saturday, I joined local historian Gary Earles and eight fellow history buffs for an adventure through one of the most beautiful and under-appreciated treasures in Franklin County, the Green River Cemetery. The trek lasted slightly over two hours and spanned the history of Franklin County, Massachusetts and America. The afternoon was organized by the Museum of Our Industrial Heritage in Greenfield. The event was a sort of kick off for the museum’s summer season of programming, which runs Saturdays and Sundays from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. starting June 23rd.

The Green River Cemetery is a time capsule. All cemeteries hold links to the past but Green River is more than a resting place for loved ones and the founding families of Franklin County. Originally opened in the 1850s, the Green River is an example of a “rural park cemetery” or “garden cemetery.” The 19th century, with its population

boom and expansion of cities, made traditional methods of burial impractical. The model at the time was to inter bodies in church plots. Churches tended to be in city centers and by the mid 1800s these plots were severely overcrowded, making issues of an olfactory nature and disease the result. Taking a cue from developments in France and England; American architects, urban developers and horticulturalists worked together to design what would become known as the rural park cemetery. The first of these in the States was Mount Auburn Cemetery in Boston but the style quickly spread to other major population centers of the day, with garden parks blooming in Philadelphia, PA, Buffalo and Brooklyn, NY.

The garden parks were built outside the city proper, generally on a prominent hill that could be seen from town. The first urban parks, funerary grounds were more than nondenominational final resting places. Consciously planned around winding paths

named after wildflowers, scenic plots would overlook vistas of the city below or be tucked into natural old growth groves. Created with the expanding middle class in mind, the rural park was intended to serve as a weekend destination for families. Monuments, mausoleums and sculpture mixed with the beauty of nature invited families to pack a picnic lunch and load up the horse and buggy for a day trip. Once they arrived, families could commune with nature and their lost loved ones, fostering a sense of continuity with what had come before and nurturing the developing environmentally conscious mindset that would grow in the American psyche over the next century.

Green River Cemetery still encapsulates the Victorian era ideals. As a garden park, Green River is still evolving. What is now the back section of the cemetery abuts the eponymous river. At its inception, the main entrance was at this end of the property and is the section that Earles focused on. In March of 2011, heavy rains caused flooding to weaken the structural integrity of the cliff that overlooks the river, in turn causing a dramatic mudslide that displaced at least two Greenfield families. Since that time, with a grant from the state, many monuments have been relocated including the show stopping obelisk honoring the 22nd Governor of our Commonwealth, Emory Washburn. Earles spoke at length about the work done along the rear of the memorial park. His views are impassioned and persuasive. Why not use the grant from the state to shore up the still crumbling cliffside instead of moving monuments and burial plots to other parts of the cemetery where they look out of place or are historically inaccurate? With the rapidly changing weather in our region we could easily be looking at this situation again in the near

future and there are some incredible monuments in very real danger of collapsing into the river below. When I asked about the current maintenance of the cemetery, Earles mentioned Snow and Sons Landscaping as the primary caretakers, but they’re mostly responsible for the pruning of trees, mowing of lawns and the like. Sadly, many headstones have fallen or are knocked over, and clearly have been for an extended period of time, especially in some of the older sections.

I cannot do justice to the depth of local history Earles imparted to us on our journey. The almost competitive spirit of the Franklin County family monuments creates a narrative in itself, and Earles’ colorful storytelling brought that history to life. At the entrance, there’s an incredible chapel built from local stone and the remaining fortune of one of Greenfield’s wealthiest residents of the 19th century. After his only daughter passed away in a sanitarium, the family’s wealth went to straight to the Green River Cemetery. Just beyond the now unused chapel is an original monument in the shape of a giant ball bearing, honoring the Wells family of Greenfield, who were a driving force in industrialization in the Northeast. The Washburn Obelisk is the largest of many obelisks in the cemetery, and remains stately and breathtaking even in its new location.

The only existing late 19th century iron fencing in the cemetery surrounds the family plot of another Wells family, this one from Deerfield. Earles stopped here to recount a story of Civil War heroism and camaraderie between Union and Rebel forces. Casual visitors should seek this plot out (its all the way at the back of the cemetery, near section number 1) for the beautiful fencing and brownstone headstones details, some of which are sadly in a precarious state.

There’s the shaded secluded plots of the Clapp and Russell families, competing next to each other in their use of monumental structures. The sole mausoleum on the property lies just south of them and holds the ashes of generations of the Snow family. Beyond the fully integrated section of the cemetery reserved for African American families, is an enormous relief of an angel designed by the architect responsible for the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C.

These descriptions only scratch the surface. The cemetery is open to the public year round and begs to be explored. As we were setting off, Earles mentioned he has done many tours over the past 20 years and has volunteered his time for more if there is interest from the community. His enthusiasm for local history and the preservation of this beautiful park is contagious. Those interested should inquire through the Museum of Our Industrial Heritage at [www.industrialhistory.org](http://www.industrialhistory.org) or 413-336-8275.

### STRAWBERRY SUPPER Montague Center Congregational Church JUNE 16TH AT 5:30 P.M.

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### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

#### Domestic Disturbances; Larceny Reported; Hit & Run

**Tuesday, 6/5**  
11:14 p.m. Domestic disturbance at Fifth and Spring Streets. Peace restored.  
**Wednesday, 6/6**  
4:43 p.m. Restraining order served on Fourth Street.  
5:15 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on North Taylor Hill Road. Report taken.  
**Thursday, 6/7**  
3:29 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Central Street. Peace restored.  
9:32 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Avenue A. Services rendered.  
**Friday, 6/8**  
12:34 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering at Franklin and East Main Streets in Millers Falls. Services rendered.  
7:18 p.m. Drug, narcotics violation on Fifth Street. Services rendered.  
7:18 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Seventh Street. Services rendered.  
**Saturday, 6/9**  
9:07 a.m. Domestic disturbance on Avenue C. Services rendered.  
12:42 p.m. Neighbor disturbance on Turnpike Road. Services rendered.  
2:25 p.m. Larceny at Rite Aid on Avenue A. Investigated.  
4:30 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Woodland Drive. Services rendered.  
8:07 p.m. Assault on L Street. Services rendered.  
8:10 p.m. Larceny at Congregational Church on L Street. Referred to an officer.  
9:53 p.m. Missing person on Randall Wood Drive. Services rendered.  
**Sunday, 6/10**  
10:01 a.m. Restraining order violation. Straight warrant arrest of [REDACTED]

ment on Seventh Street.

Services rendered.

**Saturday, 6/9**

9:07 a.m. Domestic disturbance on Avenue C. Services rendered.

12:42 p.m. Neighbor disturbance on Turnpike Road.

Services rendered.

2:25 p.m. Larceny at Rite Aid on Avenue A. Investigated.

4:30 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Woodland Drive. Services rendered.

8:07 p.m. Assault on L Street. Services rendered.

8:10 p.m. Larceny at Congregational Church on L Street. Referred to an officer.

9:53 p.m. Missing person on Randall Wood Drive. Services rendered.

**Sunday, 6/10**

10:01 a.m. Restraining order violation. Straight warrant arrest of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and for vandalism, damage, or defacement of property and violation of a restraining order.  
5:32 p.m. Motor vehicle theft on Griswold Street. Investigated.  
6:24 p.m. Arrest of [REDACTED], on a probation warrant.  
6:54 p.m. Loitering at Unity Park and First Street. Dispersed gathering.  
6:56 p.m. Motor vehicle theft on Sixth Street. Services rendered.  
11:12 p.m. Disorderly conduct in front of Element Brewery on Bridge Street. Services rendered.  
**Monday, 6/11**  
8:50 a.m. Threatening, harassment at Doggie Dips and Clips on West Main Street. Services rendered.

2:37 p.m. Illegal dumping on Lake Pleasant Road. Services rendered.  
5:17 p.m. Hit and run accident at Turnpike Road and Montague City Road. Report taken.  
6:11 p.m. Hit and run accident with an animal on Sunderland Road and Gunn Road. Advised of options.  
7:23 p.m. Fight at Franklin County Technical School on Industrial Boulevard. Referred to other agency.  
8:11 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on J Street. Report taken.  
**Tuesday, 6/12**  
11:57 a.m. Drug, narcotics violation at Franklin County Technical School on Industrial Boulevard. Services rendered.  
5:14 p.m. General disturbance on Fourth Street. Dispersed gathering.  
6:50 p.m. Report of assault at Rendezvous on Third Street. Investigated.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

#### Cement Statues Located; Illegally Attaching Plates; One Subject Left with a Friend

**Tuesday, 6/5**  
4 p.m. Call of neighbors blocking Highland Avenue with vehicles. Advised subject to call when it occurs.  
**Wednesday, 6/6**  
6:30 p.m. Barking dog complaint on Pratt Street. Quiet upon arrival.  
**Thursday, 6/7**  
8:15 a.m. Assisted with traffic at State Road residence for delivery on bad corner.

**Friday, 6/8**  
10:35 a.m. Report of tractor trailer traveling eastbound on Route 2 with trailer door unsecured. Located and door was secured.  
10:50 a.m. Flag broken off on Route 2 in Farley. Assisted with traffic while highway department fixed same.  
4:15 Report of a minor hit and run accident at East Main Street. No damage. Report taken.

7:40 p.m. Report of suspicious activity at International Paper. Searched area. Vehicle gone.  
**Saturday, 6/9**  
4:20 Arrested [REDACTED] for possession with intent to distribute a Class D drug, possession of a Class A drug, minor in possession of an open container of alcohol, and a defective seat belt on French King Highway.

6 p.m. Located cement statues at Bridge. Stolen property out of Deerfield.  
**Sunday, 6/10**  
7:20 p.m. Criminal application issued to [REDACTED] for illegally attaching plates.  
**Monday, 6/11**  
7:25 p.m. Disturbance reported on Gunn Street residence. One subject left with a friend.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
The Town of Montague Planning and Conservation Department will hold a public hearing to present and discuss an analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives for the Former Strathmore Mill Building #10 Debris Pile. The cleanup includes asbestos abatement, selective demolition, debris removal, masonry repair, and site restoration. The project is funded through the Franklin County Regional Brownfields Program, The Environmental Protection Agency, and the Town of Montague.

The hearing will take place at 5:45 PM on Tuesday June 26, 2012 at the Upstairs Meeting Room of the Montague Town Hall at 1 Avenue A Turners Falls, MA. A copy of the draft plan is available online at [http://www.montague.net/Pages/MontagueMA\\_Planning/docs](http://www.montague.net/Pages/MontagueMA_Planning/docs) or by email [planner@montague-ma.gov](mailto:planner@montague-ma.gov).

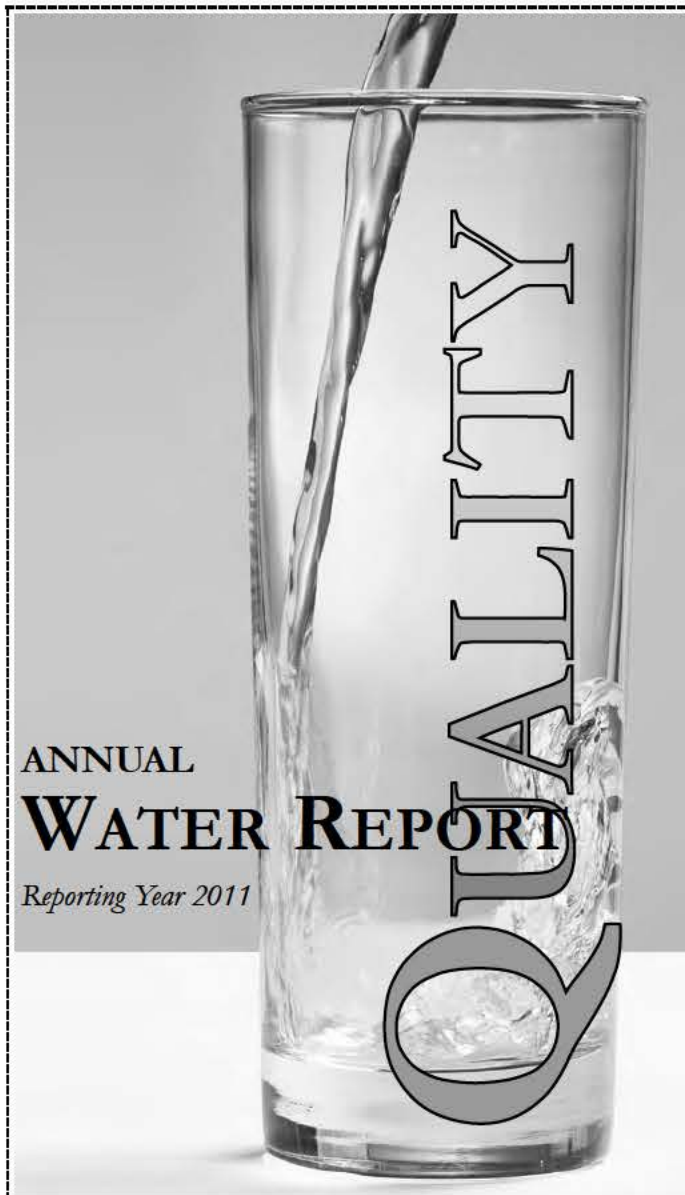
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**TOWN OF LEVERETT Highway Department Seeks Laborer/Driver**

The Town of Leverett wishes to hire a permanent full time, benefited laborer and truck driver. Must have valid Class B CDL license with air brake endorsement and a 2B hoisting license (or ability to get hoisting license within 6 months), and a clean driving record. Performs manual labor, plows snow, operates and maintains equipment for the maintenance and construction of town roads and properties. Pay \$15.00 to \$16.00 per hour. Applicant also must pass a town-provided physical and drug test prior to hiring and agree to random drug tests during employment. Job description and Employment Application are available by calling Highway Superintendent, Will Stratford, at 413-548-9400 or Town Hall, at 413-548-9150. Applications are due to the Highway Superintendent, 95 Montague Rd., Leverett, MA 01054, by 8:00 am June 25th, 2012.

*Leverett is an AA/EEO*





This report was prepared by:  
Turners Falls Water Department  
226 Millers Falls Rd.  
Turners Falls, MA 01376-1605

### Meeting the Challenge

We are once again proud to present our annual water quality report, covering all testing performed between January 1st and December 31st, 2011. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

Please share with us your thoughts or concerns about the information in this report. After all, well-informed customers are our best allies.

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Michael Brown, Water Department Superintendent, or Nancy Holmes, Clerk/Collector, at (413) 863-4542.

### Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. We meet the first Wednesday of each month, beginning at 5:30 p.m., at the Water Department Office, 226 Millers Falls Rd.,

Turners Falls. Our annual meeting of the Fire District is held the third Tuesday in April.

Our Department Board of Water Commissioners: Kenneth Morin, Stephen Call, Kevin McCarthy. Pump Station operators: John Collins, Jeffrey Hildreth, Stephen Fitzpatrick.

### Where Does My Water Come From?

The Turners Falls Water Department's main source of water consists of two artesian wells located off Center Street in Montague Center. These gravel-packed Wells #1192000 1G and #1192000 2G pump 1.2 to 2 million gallons of water per day to the filter plant. At the plant, the water is sand filtered for the removal of iron and manganese; the treated, filtered water is then discharged into the gravity-fed distribution system. The storage facilities in Turners Falls have a total storage capacity of 6.3 million gallons. Lake Pleasant and Green Pond are emergency back-up surface water supplies. Call Mike or Nancy for additional information or to answer any questions: (413) 863-4542.

### What's a Cross-Connection?

Cross-connections that contaminate drinking water distribution lines are a major concern. A cross-connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects to equipment (boilers), systems containing chemicals (air conditioning systems, fire sprinkler systems, irrigation systems), or water sources of questionable quality. Cross-connection contamination can occur when the pressure in the equipment or system is greater than the pressure inside the drinking water line (backpressure). Contamination can also occur when the pressure in the drinking water line drops due to fairly routine occurrences (main breaks, heavy water demand), causing contaminants to be sucked out from the equipment and into the drinking water line (backsiphonage).

Outside water taps and garden hoses tend to be the most common sources of cross-connection contamination at home. The garden hose creates a hazard when submerged in a swimming pool or when attached to a chemical sprayer for weed killing. Garden hoses that are left lying on the ground may be contaminated by fertilizers, cesspools, or garden chemicals. Improperly installed valves in your toilet could also be a source of cross-connection contamination.

Community water supplies are continuously jeopardized by cross-connections unless appropriate valves, known as backflow prevention devices, are installed and maintained. For more information, review the Cross-connection Control Manual from the U.S. EPA's website at <http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/drinkingwater/pws/crossconnectioncontrol/index.cfm>. You can also call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

### Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) prescribe regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs,

springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances that may be present in source water include: Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, or wildlife; Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; Pesticides and Herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses; Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and which may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

### Water Main Flushing

Distribution mains (pipes) convey water to homes, businesses, and hydrants in your neighborhood. The water entering distribution mains is of very high quality; however, water quality can deteriorate in areas of the distribution mains over time. Water main flushing is the process of cleaning the interior of water distribution mains by sending a rapid flow of water through the mains.

Flushing maintains water quality in several ways. For example, flushing removes sediments like iron and manganese. Although iron and manganese do not pose health concerns, they can affect the taste, clarity, and color of the water. Additionally, sediments can shield microorganisms from the disinfecting power of chlorine, contributing to the growth of microorganisms within distribution mains. Flushing helps remove stale water and ensures the presence of fresh water with sufficient dissolved oxygen, disinfectant levels, and an acceptable taste and smell.

During flushing operations in your neighborhood, some short-term deterioration of water quality, though uncommon, is possible. You should avoid tap water for household uses at that time. If you do use the tap, allow your cold water to run for a few minutes at full velocity before use and avoid using hot water, to prevent sediment accumulation in your hot water tank.

Please contact us if you have any questions or if you would like more information on our water main flushing schedule.

### Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.

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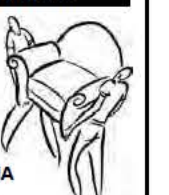
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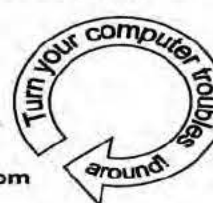
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Water Conservation

You can play a role in conserving water and save yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.

Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.

Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.

Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.

Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water-using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

Source Water Assessment

Protecting Turners Falls Water Supply: The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) for the water supply source serving this water system. This report is a planning tool to support local and state efforts to improve water supply protection. Although the TFWD has many safeguards in place, the overall susceptibility ranking to contamination of the groundwater supplies is high, based on the presence of numerous high-ranking threat land-uses within the Zone II water supply protection areas. The report commends our water system on its proactive approach to source protection. A complete SWAP report is available at the TFWD, the Board of Health office, and online at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/swapreps.htm>. For more information, call the TFWD at 863-4542.

Things You Can Do to Protect Our Water Supply

Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly

Do not use the river beds to dispose of any waste.

Take used motor oil and other such fluids to the town's hazardous waste collection sites

Definitions

**90th Percentile:** Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level. **AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal):** The level of a

Sampling Results

During the past year, we have taken hundreds of water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic, or synthetic organic contaminants. The table below shows only those contaminants that were detected in the water. The state allows us to monitor for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %TILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2010	1.3	1.3	0.37	0/20	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2010	15	0	1.6	0/20	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED WELL #1/WELL #2	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloride (mg/L)	2011	NA	250	38/23	NA	No	Rainoff/leaching from natural deposits
pH Units	2011	NA	6.5-8.5	7.8/7.9	NA	No	Naturally occurring

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES <sup>1</sup>			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED WELL #1/WELL #2	RANGE LOW-HIGH
Sodium (mg/L)	2011	11	NA
Sulfate (mg/L)	2011	23.0/20.0	250

OTHER SUBSTANCES			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED WELL #1/WELL #2	RANGE LOW-HIGH
Alkalinity-Total (mg/L)	2011	85/65	None
Aluminum (mg/L)	2011	ND	0.2
Calcium (mg/L)	2011	36/27	None
Color	2011	ND	None
Hardness (mg/L)	2011	120.0/89.0	180
Iron (mg/L)	2011	ND	0.3
Magnesium (mg/L)	2011	7.2/5.3	None
Manganese (mg/L)	2011	ND	0.05
Odor	2011	ND	None
Potassium (mg/L)	2011	2.4/2.1	None
Silver (mg/L)	2011	ND	0.10
Total Dissolved Solids (mg/L)	2011	150/140	None
Turbidity (mg/L)	2011	ND	None
Zinc (mg/L)	2011	ND	5

<sup>1</sup> Unregulated contaminants are those for which the U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the U.S. EPA in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety. **MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter). **ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter). **TT (Treatment Technique):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

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## EVERY TUESDAY

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: All Summer long *Kidleidoscope Tuesdays!* With stories, games & activities, & a craft. For ages 3-6 with a parent/guardian. Siblings welcome, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

## WEDNESDAYS through SUNDAYS UNTIL JUNE 17th

Fish Ladder at Unity Park, Turners Falls: Come see *migrating fish* navigate the fish ladder in Turners Falls, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

## EVERY WEDNESDAY

Avenue A, Turners Falls: *Great Falls Farmers Market*, 2 - 6 p.m.

Winterland, Greenfield: *TNT Karaoke*, 9 p.m.

Jake's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Shag*, 6 - 8 p.m.

## EVERY THURSDAY

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Acoustic open mic* with *Dan, Kip & Shultzzy* from *Curly Fingers DuPree* hosting, 8:30 - 11:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Open Mic Night*, 9 p.m.

## EVERY FRIDAY and SATURDAY

Montague Inn: *TNT Karaoke*, 8:30 p.m.

## ART SHOWS:

### NOW through JUNE 30th

Wendell Free Library: *Watercolors by Jean Kozlowski* of Northfield.

### NOW through JULY 1st

Salmon Falls Artisans Showroom, Shelburne Falls: *ARTx5: Group Show*.

## LOCAL EVENTS:

### THURSDAY, JUNE 14th

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Dance Party with DJ*

*Bobby Falco*, 8-10:30 p.m.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 22, 29

### SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 23, 30

### SUNDAY, JUNE 17, 24, and JULY 1

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *New Renaissance Players presents The Norman Conquests*.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 15th

Baystate Franklin Medical Center, Greenfield: *Clinical Notes*, a hospital-based women's a cappella chorus, free *Spring into Summer*, 12 - 1 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Watershed Poets*, a talk about the natural world & our local poets Dickinson, Stevens, Tuckerman. 6 p.m. Free.

The Night Kitchen, Montague: *The Alex Snyderman Trio*, with *Miro Sprague*, *Alec Darien* 6:30 & 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Fireseed*, 7:30 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & The Mud, Blood & Beer Band*, 9 - 11 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Pamela Means*, 8 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: *Duo Orfeo*, 7:30 p.m.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Erin Harpe*, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & The Mud, Blood & Beer Band*, 9-11 p.m.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 16th

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Matt Durfee*, 12 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Naturally Curious: Author & photographer Mary Holland*, 1 p.m. Free.

Erving Library: *International Folk Dance*, 1 p.m.

Peterman's Boards & Bowls, Gill: *Grand Opening*, with music 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Red Fire Farm, Montague: *Strawberry Soiree*, 2 - 5 p.m. Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Darlingside*, 7:30 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: *The Screaming Skull*, 7:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Wildcat O'Halloran Band*, 9 - 11 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: *Tiny Radars Bookmill Residency Series, The Novels, The Michael J Epstein Memorial Library*, 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rockit Queer*, 9:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *99 North*, 9:30 p.m.

### SUNDAY, JUNE 17th

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Ray Mason*, 2 p.m.

Elliot Street Cafe, Brattleboro: *Sam's Sunday Set & Shed*, a musical mentoring series & jam session, with *Evelyn Harris* and spotlighting protegee *Ayana Sofia*, 4 - 7 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Hartka-Hayes* duo with virtuoso cellist *Dr. Rebecca Hartka* & celebrated pianist *Gregory Hayes*, 4 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Sunday Locals: Sandy Bailey & friends*, 6 p.m.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Jim Kaminsky*, 7:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *John Sheldon*, 8-10 p.m.

### MONDAY, JUNE 18th



*Mutton & Mead is back! Saturday June 23rd and Sunday June 24th at the Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club in Montague, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Advanced tickets available.*

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bingo*, 8 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20th

Industrial Park (inner loop), Turners Falls: *The Montague Training Criterium Bicycle Races*, 5:30 - 8 p.m.

Alan E. Rich Environmental Park, Athol: The Millers River Watershed Council invites paddlers on the first *Great Solstice Ice Cream River Paddle*, 5:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Quiz Nite*, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Harmaniac Brothers*, 8-10 p.m.

### THURSDAY, JUNE 21st

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Tawdry*, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Tommy Filiault & Friends*, 8-10 p.m.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 22nd

**& SATURDAY JUNE 23rd**  
Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: Pothole Pictures presents, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. Movie: 7:30 p.m. Music: 7 p.m. Friday: *Drew Payton*, Saturday: *Dan Lederer*.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Luke Mulholland Band*, 8 p.m.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 22nd

The Night Kitchen, Montague: *The Alex Snyderman Trio*, featuring *Miro Sprague* on piano, *Alec Darien* on bass, 6:30 & 8 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center: *Watershed History: The Grand Trunk Hotel*, 6 p.m. Free.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Ben Levin*, 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Thaddeus Hands*, 9:30 p.m. Free.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 23rd and SUNDAY, JUNE 24th

Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club, Montague: *Mutton & Mead Festival*, The Mutton & Mead Tavern is hosting its annual festival for your enjoyment! Games, music, food, & art. Meet Robin Hood & his Merry Men as well as Maid Marian! Advanced tickets now available. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 23rd

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Samirah* with *Jill Conely*, 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: The Voo Prom, (60s-70s funk, 80s-90s hip hop music and theme) w. DJ Cool Breeze, 9:30 p.m. Free.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Moose & the High Tops*, 9:30 p.m.

### SUNDAY, JUNE 24th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Canal-side Nature Walk*, meet at main entrance, 8 a.m.

Wendell Free Library: *Arsenic and Old Lace*, film showing, for all ages, 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Surly Temple* 8-10 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. Free

### MONDAY, JUNE 25th

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Dada Dino's Open Mic*, 8 p.m.

### TUESDAY, JUNE 26th

Gill Commons: *Common People Summer Concert Series* presents *Zydeco Connection*, flavors of New Orleans, 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bok Choy Trio*, 8 p.m. Free.

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27th

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Creative Networking Buzz*, Slip away from the daily grind and steal a few hours to meet with the creative community, 6 - 8 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Frogs & Friends* for Families, presentation by Dawn Marvin Ward, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

### THURSDAY, JUNE 28th

through **SUNDAY, JULY 1st**  
Living Memorial Park, Brattleboro: Vermont Theatre Company presents *Henry V*, for its 23rd Shakespeare-in-the Park, 6 p.m.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 29th & JULY 6th

**SATURDAY, JUNE 30th & JULY 7th**  
**SUNDAY, JULY 1st & JULY 8th**  
Arts Block, Greenfield: Old Deerfield Productions presents *The Madwoman of Chailot*, a play with *Linda McInerney*, with *John Sheldon* and *NECCA Circus* performers. 7:30 p.m. Fridays & Saturdays, 2 p.m. on Sundays.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 29th

The Night Kitchen, Montague: *The Charlie Apicella* guitar trio, gypsy, swing & jazz guitar, 6:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Bright Lines*, *Abe Loomis*, & *Justin Hillman*, 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Dubs & Frenchy*, 9:30 p.m. Free.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Jim Kaminsky*, 10 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Loomis Band & Flabberghaster*, 9:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 30th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Water Under the Bridge*: historic bike tour of the bridges of Turners Falls & Montague City along the canal-side bike path, 12 - 2 p.m. Free.

The Night Kitchen, Montague: *The Alex Snyderman Trio*, with *Miro Sprague* on piano, *Alec Darien* on bass, & *Alex Snyderman* on drums, 6:30 and 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Kristin Hoffmann*, 8 p.m. Free.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Fenibo*, 8 p.m.



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## THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

# The Perfect Weather Recipe

BY LESLIE BROWN

**MONTAGUE CITY** - Like many gardeners, I spend a fair amount of time with an eye to the sky and an ear for the forecast. The weather, infamous in New England, is the one factor completely out of the gardener's control. After the dry winter and early hot spring, there were cries of drought in our region. In my garden the hose appeared early and often as the spring crops went in. It was really too hot and dry for leaf crops. The tomatoes in the sunroom grew tall and leggy. Finally, in the middle of May, I knuckled under, put them in the ground and watered.

Then, as they say in New England, we waited a minute and things changed. The weather pattern reversed, and we entered a rainy period. The tomatoes sulked, and I began to fear a season like the last one when the vine crops refused to thrive in the cool, damp summer. They became susceptible to disease and the yield was small. Tomatoes have no judgment in the matter of drinking; they are sots. When the rain falls, they keep drinking - whether they need to or not. Happily, this dampness also passed and turned into a period of humid heat, which thrilled the tomatoes. The gardener tried not to complain.

June came on with a bang. We went away for the long Memorial Day weekend, and on our return the peonies, the laurel and all the roses

were in full bloom. Especially pretty this year is the wanton deep red rose bush at the back of the garden. Originally a yellow rose grown on a thrifty rootstock, it has reverted to its unknown original. This blowsy plant has long arcing branches, each covered with dark blooms that make a dramatic backdrop to the green of the vegetable plants in front.

In the center of the garden the asparagus ferns are long and thick as well, a sign of their healthy roots. So far, no sign of the asparagus beetle! After enjoying a small harvest we have followed the grower's advice to let the plot develop. Next spring we will be able to eat more heartily of this tasty crop. A well-established bed of asparagus roots lasts for many productive years, easily justifying the space commitment.

A more typical summerlike temperature followed the spell of heat and humidity, allowing the peas and leafy crops to become more productive. After the rainy weather I stayed out of the garden and let it dry out, rather than further compacting the soil with human activity. I satisfied my gardening itch by planting several hanging pots of annuals.

Most garden centers, nurseries and stores only carry seasonal plants and are looking to move their stocks of annuals. While these folks focus on showing perennial plants, you can indulge in gardening annual flowers at bargain prices. Tuberous begonias decorate the garden shed. The front yard boasts large planters of lobelia and New Guinea impatiens. In the back of the house the artisan clothes poles are hung with petunias, lobelia and a purple and white flower whose label has been lost. I also found a

green and white foliage plant (unnamed) to add to the petunias as well as an ornamental sweet potato vine to hang off the back porch roof. This vine is new to me. It has a gently spreading habit, can tolerate mixed sun and shade and is a greeny-bronze color, offsetting its neighbors' purples and greens. Apparently, it may also produce blossoms and maybe even tubers. The tubers can be eaten, although the word on the street is they are a poor substitute for the yam or sweet potato.

Now that the ground has dried a bit, I've been able to plant green beans and a few seeds of gigantic pumpkin. These were available at the Big E last year, displayed near the prize-winning pumpkins of the season, several hundred pounds each. I'm not sure why we're taking on this project except that it appealed to my partner. Since he is also an active participant in digging and weeding that seemed only fair, although I hope it doesn't lead to the need to buy a forklift come fall. Perhaps since we are starting a bit late, we'll grow a slightly smaller cousin, say one under a hundred pounds. I must admit, it would be quite a hoot to display such a beefy jack o' lantern come Halloween.

Now the onions look smart and straight. It won't be long before some can be harvested as scallions, adding zest to cooking and making room for the remaining plants to develop a large bulb. The sweet peas should be ready in a week to ten days and we can harvest tender leaves of chard and kale anytime.

The tomatoes are no longer sulking. All their plants have blossoms and both the Sungold cherry and

Early Girl varieties have fruit. If all goes well we should be eating fresh garden tomatoes in mid-July. There's already a nice supply of sweet basil on tap to complement their tangy flavor. Yum!

With the wide variety of weather this spring I've once again been especially pleased with the raised beds for planting and tending. These are four plots inside interlocking plastic walls about thirty-six inches square. While we made an initial investment of purchased soil to fill them, these raised beds have lasted for over twenty years. The raised beds are easily weeded; the kneeling or seated gardener can reach the cen-

ter of the patch from any side. They drain well and stay drier than the larger, heavier soil beds. They are ideal for root crops like onions, leeks and garlic and leafy crops like lettuce, chard and kale. They are easy to maintain, requiring only some manure and compost and a little raking at the beginning of each season. This is also the perfect place to start greens seed in the fall for an early spring harvest.

Patience may indeed be a virtue; I don't know that it is one of mine. I love planting and the harvest but am not keen to spend much time weeding. The raised beds make any weeding project less daunting, and I have managed to justify using black plastic both to keep down the weeds in the tomatoes and peppers and because it is great for retaining warmth for these heat loving vegetables. It will also keep those beefy pumpkins up off the ground and happy. Happy plants and happy gardeners! Enjoy!

## Missing Officer on Main Road



JOE PARZYCH PHOTO

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

**GILL** - Sheila T. Maniqueen has disappeared while in uniform as an officer of the peace during her watch over tag sale items on Main Road in Gill. She was last seen on duty after midnight on Friday, May 18th, by a Gill Police Officer on patrol. This is her second disappearance. The first incident occurred while she was in

nurses' whites. She was rescued about 100 yards away. A man, driving an extended cab pickup predicted her second disappearance. He remains a person of interest. Maniqueen had gained popularity the past couple of weeks wearing her nurses' uniform. There is a sizable reward for information leading to her recovery.

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